IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kazuhiko Hachiya et al.

Appl. No.:

Filed: February 4, 2002

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SENDING E-MAIL, METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR RECEIVING E-MAIL, SENDING/RECEIVING METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR E-MAIL, SENDING PROGRAM SUPPLYING MEDIUM, RECEIVING PROGRAM SUPPLYING MEDIUM AND SENDING/ RECEIVING PROGRAM SUPPLYING MEDIUM

Art Unit:

Examiner:

Docket No.:   112857-314

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on Line 10 and ending on Line 11 to read as follows:

"This application is a Continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/039,315 filed on October 22, 2001, which is a Continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 08/993,726 filed December 17, 1997."

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-71.

Please add new claims 72-87 as set forth below.

72.   (New Claim) Method of controlling an agent comprising:

sending an agent parameter;

wherein said agent parameter defines a behavior of an agent;

setting a state of said agent to absent state in response to sending the agent parameter;

generating said agent parameter if said agent parameter is not returned within a predetermined time period.

73.   (New Claim) Method of claim 72 wherein said agent is animated agent.

74.   (New Claim) Method of claim 72 wherein said behavior of said agent is determined by a plurality of agent parameters.

75.   (New Claim) Method of claim 73 further comprising storing image date of said animated agent.

76.   (New Claim) Method of claim 72 further comprising detecting one or more events corresponding to said agent and updating said agent parameters based on current agent parameters with each detected event such that the behavior of said virtual agent is continuously modified with each detected event.

77.   (New Claim) Method of claim 72 further comprising sending information representing said predetermined time period along with said agent parameter.

78.   (New Claim) Method of claim 72 further comprising receiving said agent parameter after sending said agent parameter.

79.   (New Claim) Method of claim 78 further comprising changing said state of said agent to existence state in response to receiving said agent parameter.

80.   (New Claim) Method of claim 78 wherein said received agent parameter is a modified version of said sent agent parameter.

81.   (New Claim) Method of controlling an animated electronic pet comprising:
       sending a plurality of pet parameters;

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wherein said plurality of pet parameters determine a behavior of an animated electronic pet,

setting a state of said animated electronic pet to absent state in response to sending said plurality of pet parameters.

generating said plurality of pet parameters if said plurality of pet parameters are not returned within predetermined time period.

82.   (New Claim) Method of claim 81 further comprising storing image data of said animated electronic pet.

83.   (New Claim) Method of claim 81 further comprising detecting one or more events corresponding to said animated electronic pet and updating at least one of said pet parameters based on current pet parameters with each detected event such that the behavior of said animated electronic pet is continuously modified with each detected event.

84.   (New Claim) Method of claim 81 further comprising sending information representing said predetermined time period along with said plurality of pet parameters.

85.   (New Claim) Method of claim 81 further comprising receiving said plurality of pet parameters after sending said plurality of pet parameters.

86.   (New Claim) Method of claim 85 further comprising changing said state of said animated electronic pet to existence state in response to receiving said plurality of pet parameters.

87.   (New Claim) Method of claim 85 wherein said received plurality of pet parameters are a modified version of said sent plurality of pet parameters.
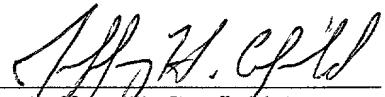
REMARKS

Applicant presents new claims 72-87 for examination. The new claims are distinguishable over the art of record, and contain no new matter. Applicant respectfully submits

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that all of the claims, including those newly present, are in condition for allowance, and awaits early and favorable consideration of all claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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